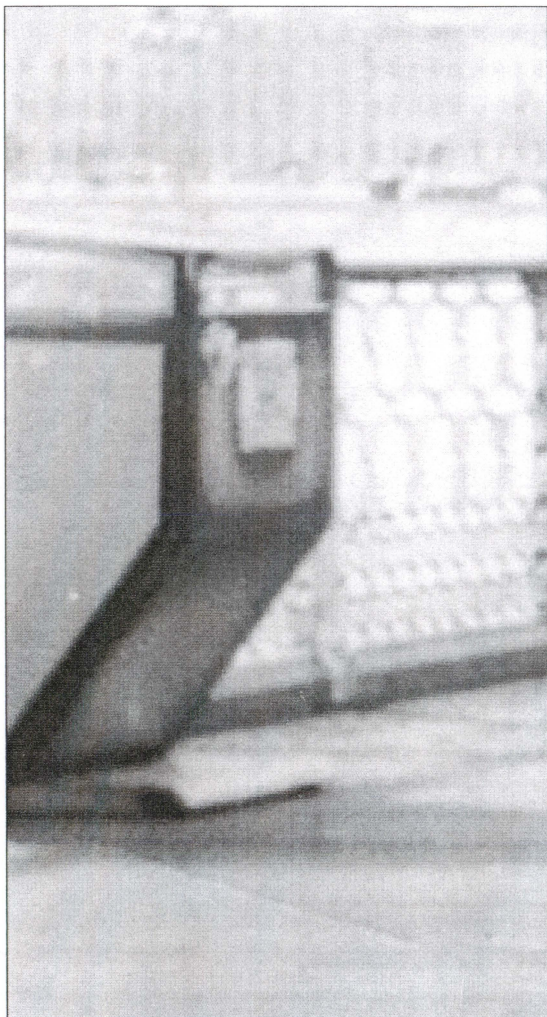


MECHANICAL MEMORIES MAGAZINE

ISSUE 21

FEB. 2008



*Could you identify this machine? See centre pages.
Also in this issue: Help wanted for unusual restoration project.*

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello again, and here we are with the February issue. It seems we're barely into the New Year, and I'm already being asked if we're having a spring auction, and when. Well, we plan to go back to Sarratt for the spring bash, as I think all agreed it was a good venue and about as good as we'll ever get. Although I haven't actually booked the hall yet, I can at least confirm that the date will be Sunday 27th April. 'How can you be so sure of the date if you haven't booked the hall?' I hear you all ask. Quite simply, it's the only date that doesn't clash with anything else. If I am unable to book the Sarratt hall, I may have to come with plan B, but at least pencil in the date – Sunday 27th April.

Well, I haven't much else to say this time, and as it's fast approaching 1.00 am, I'll just have to leave the rest of this page blank.

Till next time

All the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

New Wondermatics info.

You'll remember I started the 'Wonders List' some time ago, which I adopted from the pennymachines website, in an attempt to establish how many different allwins were produced by Wondermatics. We came up with two previously unknown machines, and later in the year a third turned up on ebay – a baseball game (which seemed an obscure theme for a British machine). Overall though, response was disappointing and I thought it unlikely that we would discover many more Wonders allwins. However, I now have some fantastic new information. All will be revealed next month!

www.melright.com

I mentioned Melvyn Wright's website last month, with particular reference to a brilliant new feature he's added on BMCo automatic payout machines. However, since then I've investigated Melvyn's sites more fully, and have found that Melvyn is a man whose talents apparently know no bounds! www.melright.com serves as a home page with links to all of Melvyn's many other websites, which include: mechanical organs, Meccano, Bako construction, a cyber steam fair and of course slot machines. To be honest Melvyn, I'm surprised you have the time to collect slot machines! Anyway, for anyone with an hour or two to spare, all of Melvyn's sites are well worth a visit.

Websites you should visit

www.pennymachines.co.uk – the UK's premier website dedicated to British vintage penny slot machines. An excellent resource.

www.bryans.org.uk – Melvyn Wright's comprehensive site for the dedicated collector and enthusiast of Bryans' machines.

www.melright.com/slots – Melvyn's 'other' site. General coin-op, mainly wall machines, including an excellent feature on BMCo auto-payout allwins.

www.arcade-museum.com – an expanding international database of vintage coin-op, including forums and message boards etc.

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale

Bonhams sale of Fine Mechanical Music at Knightsbridge on Wednesday 19th March is fast approaching, and amongst the various antique musical boxes, gramophones and phonographs, are a number of interesting coin-op items, including a Wurlitzer 1100 jukebox and an 1890s Electric Shocker, in oak case with pediment. Of particular interest will be two mutoscopes, one of which (a Clamshell) is a late entry from Holland. I understand the machine is complete and in fair condition, with an estimate of £3000 - £5000. As there are probably only seven or eight of these beautifully ornate cast iron mutoscopes in Britain, it will be interesting to see if it stays here or goes abroad. The machine has a cowboy reel and comes with a spare.

The other mutoscope on offer is a 'tinny', and I suspect any interest shown in this machine will be for the reel rather than the machine itself. The top flash proudly proclaims 'The Electric Chair at Sing Sing', the subject matter being pretty self-evident! (See Bonhams ad. on page 25). Although it may seem obscene now to have filmed an execution, especially for viewing in a mutoscope, clearly attitudes were different then. Talking to Laurence Fisher a while back, I understand the reel doesn't quite make it to the point the switch is pulled, and in Laurence's words '*you don't get to see him fry*'. Nonetheless, it still seems a particularly brutal subject for a mutoscope; I don't think I would get away with operating it at Brighton!

Dates for your diary

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 19th March
Knightsbridge

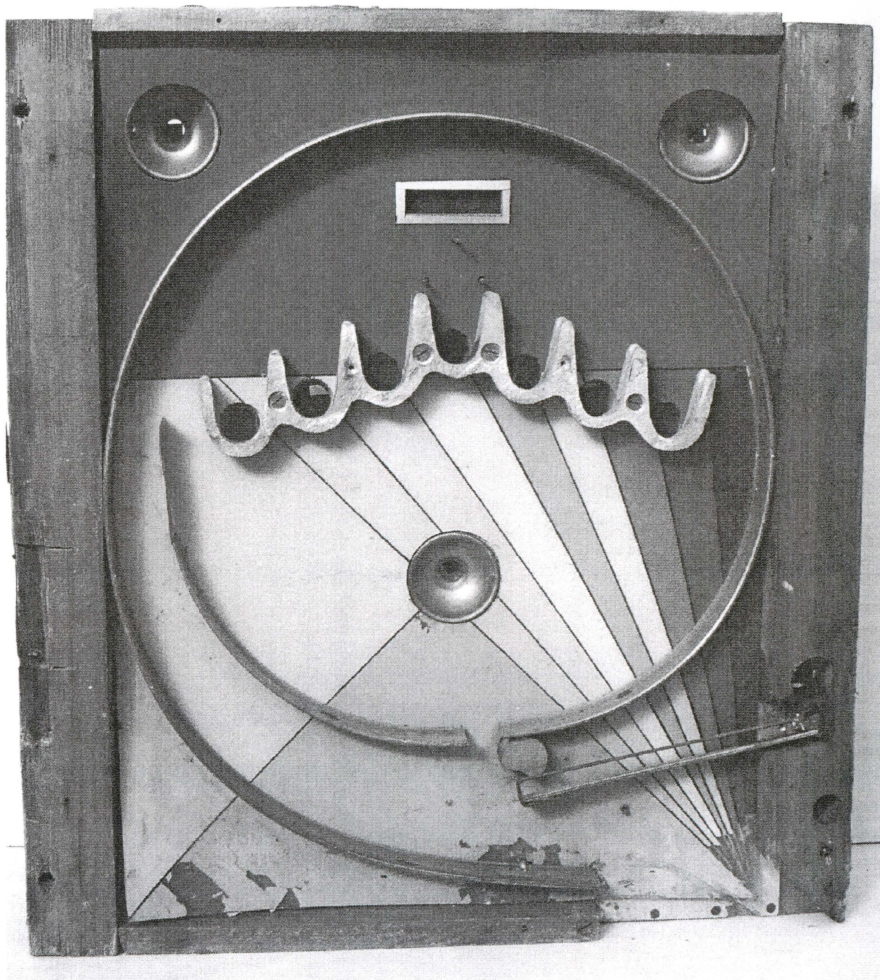
Chicagoland 4th, 5th & 6th April
Illinois, USA

Brighton Jukebox Show 19th & 20th April
Brighton racecourse

Vintage Coin-Op Spring Show & Auction 27th April
To be confirmed

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Collectables Sale 13th May
Knowle, Nr Coventry

Jukebox Madness 25th & 26th October
Kempton Park racecourse

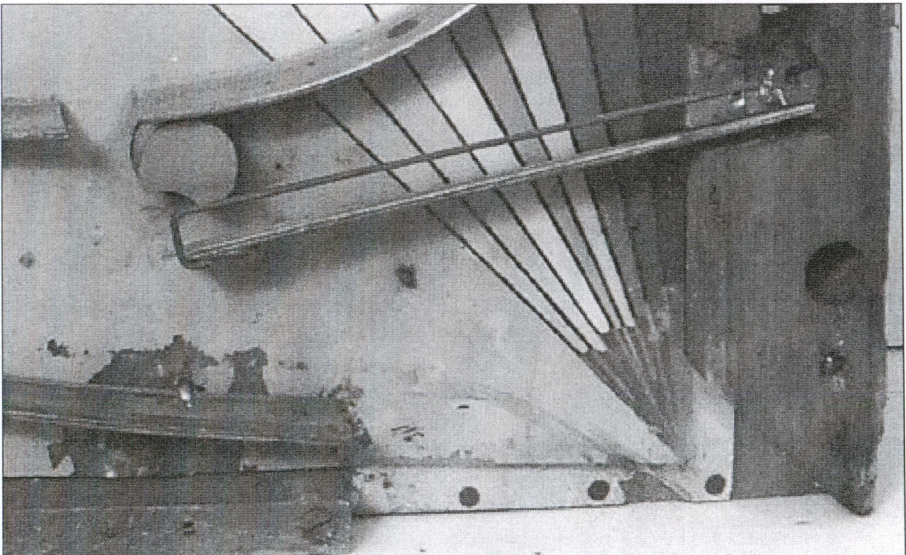


Help! What is it?

Barry Hiscock came down to Mechanical Memories Museum a while back, (sorry Barry, it was actually a long time ago now) and brought with him some pictures of a most interesting find. Barry would very much like to start restoration, and needs to learn more about a most unusual electro-mechanical allwin. Can anyone help?

When Barry came down to Brighton, he was rather hoping I may have been able to shed some light on his recent acquisition; unfortunately, I've never seen anything like it. As can be seen from the picture opposite, it's basically an allwin, but appears far more complex from the back than it does from the front! Looking at the playfield, it is evident that this is a multi-ball allwin. Balls are released from the far right of the machine, roll down a runway (above where the hammer box should be) and stack up behind a ball feeder. It appears there are (or should be) three light bulbs, positioned in the two top corners and centre of the playfield, plus there is a narrow window in the centre, above the ball gallery. There's not much else to be learned just from looking at the playfield, and I wonder if there were ever any instructions?

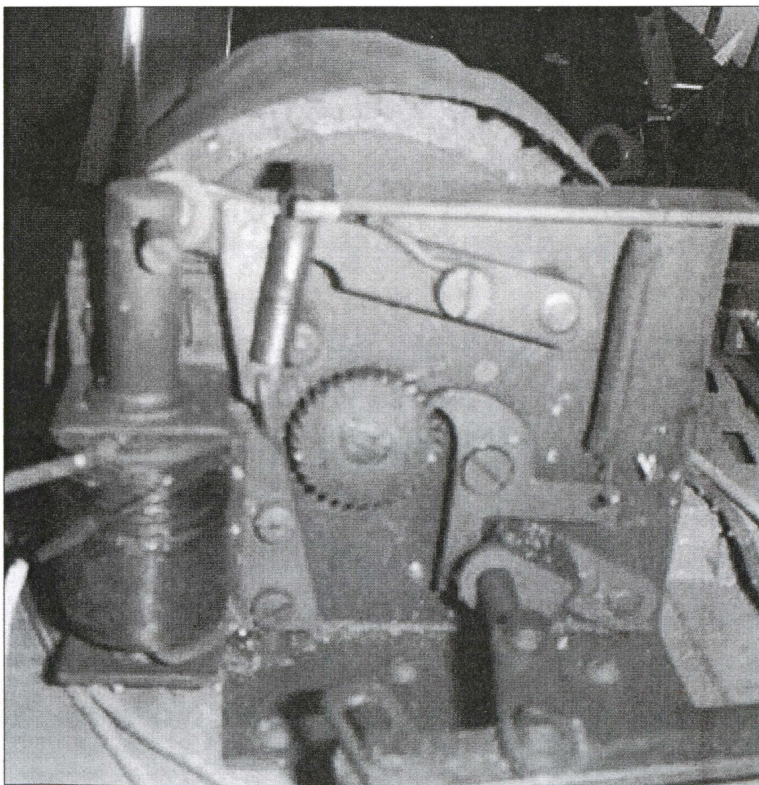
However, the mechanism is quite complex, and as yet I have been unable to work out exactly what the machine does. I had hoped to visit Barry in order to examine the machine more closely, but unfortunately have not been able to find the time. Looking at



Detail of the bottom left playfield, showing the ball runway and feeder.

the pictures of the mechanism Barry emailed me recently, the first thing to come to my notice is a drum situated behind the narrow window in the top centre of the playfield. As the original paperwork that would have surrounded the drum is missing, it's rather difficult to ascertain what it does. At first, I thought it may have been a payout indicator (similar to a *Crackerjack* allwin), but I now have doubts, as the drum doesn't appear to have any mechanical or electrical link with any other part of the mechanism. So perhaps it's some sort of score indicator? Well, that seems unlikely too. The drum is advanced by a pawl and ratchet wheel, operated by a solenoid, but as there is no reset solenoid it would appear that it only revolves in one direction, so unlikely to be of any use in score keeping! To be honest, it doesn't appear to serve any useful purpose.

There are a number of leaf switches, some of which are closed when balls land in certain cups in the gallery. It would appear from a couple of wiring diagrams Barry sent me that certain leaf switches have to be closed before the payout solenoid is actuated, but it is extremely difficult to gain any understanding of how the machine operates just by looking at pictures.

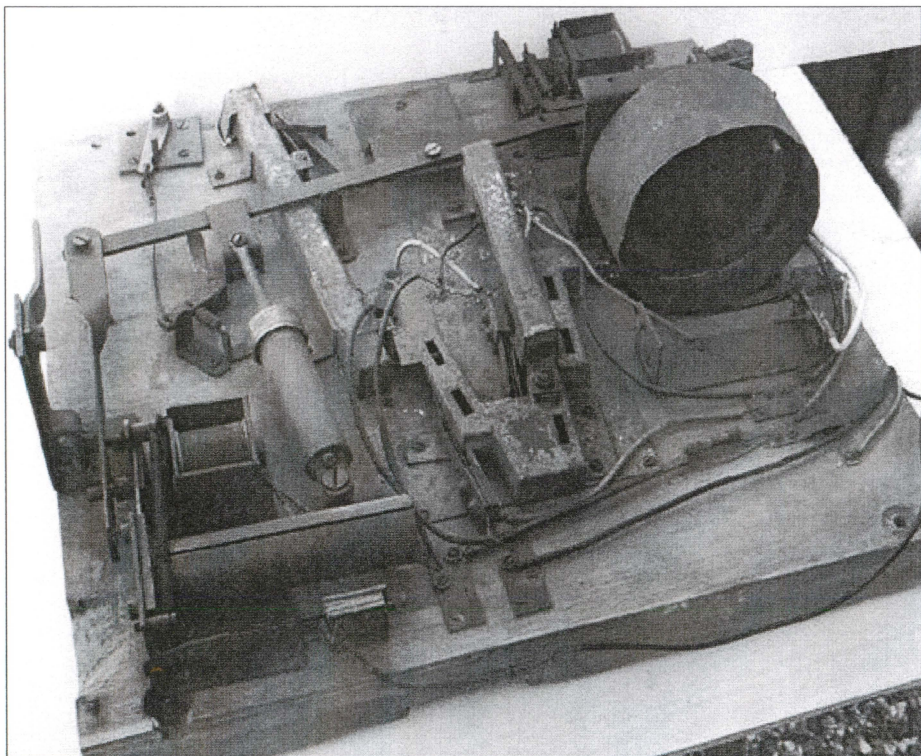


The drum assembly, which doesn't appear to have a reset mechanism.

The payout mechanism is interesting, and is operated by a solenoid. The coin tube is four inches high, which would hold a considerable reserve of coins, thus indicating that the machine would (depending on the player's score) payout more than one coin. However, as the payout slide is the thickness of just one coin, I can only assume that the solenoid would be actuated more than once at the end of a game. Alternatively, perhaps the machine pays out at various points during its cycle?

There's one more interesting point – the machine is probably not British. This is no doubt a rash statement, and it's quite likely I shall have to eat my words at some point in the future! I make the assumption based on the internal diameter of the coin tube, which at less than an inch makes it too small for pennies and ha'pennies. The coin slide, being 1/6" thick is too thin for thre'penny bits, and although sixpences would fit, sixpence would have been a lot of money to feed an allwin.

So, can anyone help? Has anyone ever seen one of these before? Better still, does anyone own one? Barry would really like some information to help him restore this most unusual machine. I'm intrigued too, so if anyone has any information, please get in touch with me so that I can pass it on to Barry.



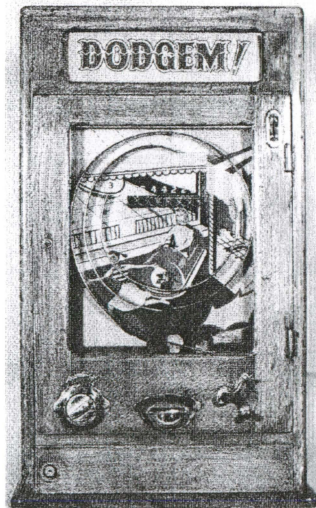
The mechanism of Barry's unusual electro-mechanical allwin.

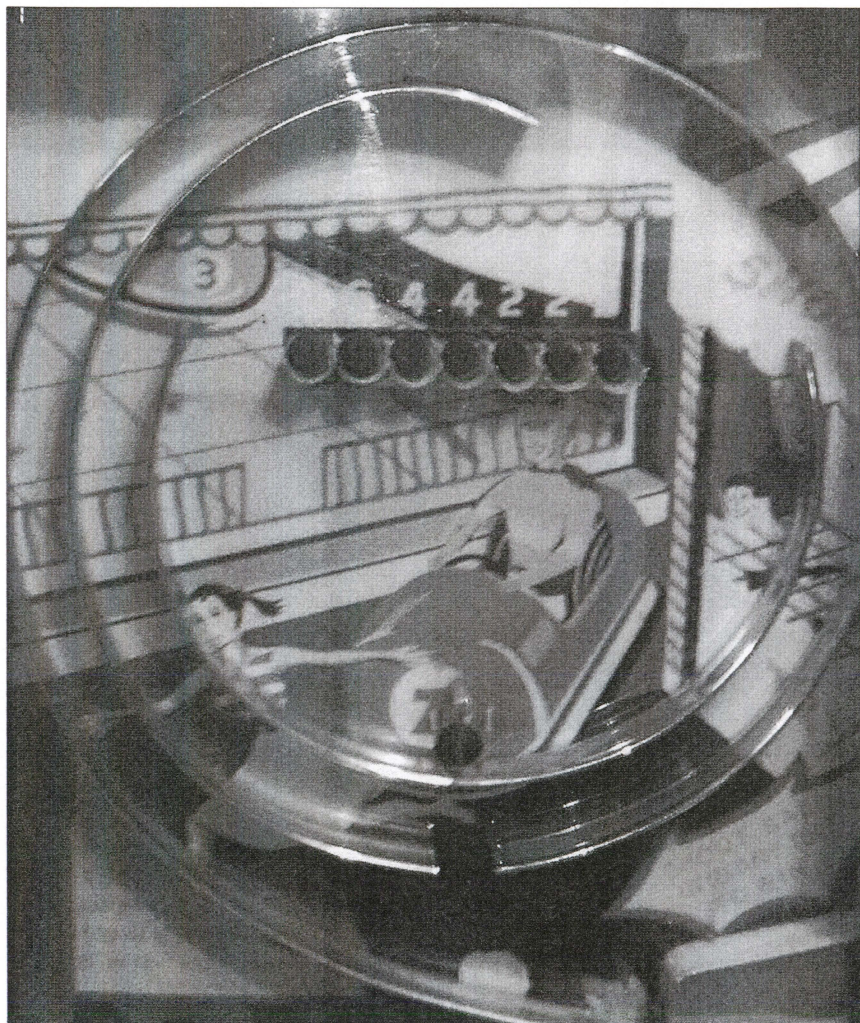
Oliver Whales 'Dodgem'

By Charlie Booth

Everybody in the field of collecting old coin-operated amusement machines must remember John Carter's auction several years ago shortly before his sad and premature demise. There was a fantastic array of desirable machines for sale, and I was lucky enough on the day to buy three of them. My only regret was that I did not have sufficient available funds to buy more, a sentiment that I think was expressed by many collectors. One of the machines I bought was the 'Dodgem' allwin made by Oliver Whales. This actual machine is featured in the book *Arcade and Slot Machines* by Paul Braithwaite, and published by John Carter himself. In this book, John describes Dodgem as "perhaps Whales only fairground theme Allwin, rather dire artwork and a rare machine." With respect to John, I personally love the artwork, which in my view encapsulates the '50s, and I just knew I had to own it.

When I viewed the machine before the auction, I noticed some of the mechanism was missing. Fortunately, a good friend and excellent restorer had the spare parts to complete it. In the past I have owned quite a few Whales allwins, but this is the only one I have retained. There are two inherent problems with Whales allwins - the plastic backflash warps and the reverse printing on it is prone to flaking off. Neither of these problems have affected my Dodgem which, after having the chrome re-plated, is in mint condition. In all the years of collecting, this is the only Dodgem I have seen and I would be interested to know if anyone out there owns another one.





Drunkard's Dream

By Anthony Ellis

My thanks go to Tony Atkins, without his help my dream would not have come true. I have been on the lookout for a Drunkard's Dream for quite some time. The last one that I saw which was definitely for sale was at the first Carters auction many years ago. I was limited for space, so my winning bids filled my car with a Burglar and Nightwatchman. It may have been good fortune that I hadn't taken a trailer because I am sure I would have tried to fill it, but in hindsight I wish I had gone more prepared – with some excellent machines on offer on the day. The thought that I should have bought another machine got the better of me, and at a later date I bought the Twins. That just left me trying to find the other machine I wanted for my collection: a Drunkard's Dream.

Tony then put me in touch with a blue-cased Drunkard's Dream last year. The price was reasonable and the offer was almost accepted until the last minute, when we all must get a twinge from selling part of our collection, and yep, the sale was off. The piece meant too much to him, and so with some disappointment but respect for his decision, the search was still on. Two more possible machines were available, one here in Blighty and the other over in the land of Stars and Stripes, but costs did become an issue on these two machines, so once again the search was still on but put slightly on the back burner.

A telephone call back in November last year from Tony put me on the trail of one at Bonhams saleroom. I went on t'internet to have a look at the catalogue, and sure enough, what looked like a good conditioned Drunkard's Dream was featured plus a Domino and a Monkey Climber. Now, what do I do? Drive down, train, telephone bid, fax bid or internet bid. The Missus and I decided to go to London and have a look. Fiona wasn't too bothered about the machine but any excuse for a trip to London were brownie points for me as far as buying the machine. With the sale so close no saver tickets were available, so full price tickets of £100 each for us made us think about driving, but no parking at the saleroom and congestion charges put us off that, and then work seemed to take president over any visit.

I placed a faxed bid somewhere between the estimates as commission can soon run away with what I was willing to pay. For some reason, I put a bid on the Domino as well. Tony then phoned on Tuesday "Have you got it?" he asked.

I replied "I don't know, but I did bid."

"Well, if you did bid" said Tony, "you have got it, nobody else put a bid on."

I was on the telephone to Bonhams like a rat up a drainpipe. Yup, they were mine, so the cheque was sent and they were ready to collect from their White City warehouse. Now, they like to charge £280 for delivery, but at least they are not as bad as Christies and they don't charge for moving things to the warehouse. Being a Yorkshire man I found a

cheaper option, Freight 4 U at £90, but it did not sound like a cheap option later, as a week on I had a call saying my machines were stuck down in Kings Lynn having been involved in a road traffic accident. Now, was I going to be involved in making a Bolland's Two creation out of this? Well I was assured that the machines were OK. They arrived the following week and the Domino was fine other than pennies all over. The Drunkard's Dream however was not quite perfect. It looked as if there had been a fight in the cellar, with bottles all over, barrels loose and a side panel to refix. Out with the glue and Darren Hesketh's book to search for guidance, but all the Drunkards are different and so was mine. A bottle stuck here and a barrel stuck there, it now looks unscathed for it's ordeal. I can stop sweating over it now.....but where shall I put it?



Anthony's fine Drunkard's Dream. Picture courtesy Bonhams.

Wembley Glide at Llandudno

To be honest, when I published Kevin Gowland's mystery picture last month, I wasn't over-confident we would get any answers. However, within a day, not only had I found out what the machine was, but also the place the picture was taken. I first heard from Stuart Fraser, who said he thought the location looked like Morecambe pier. However, later that day I received this email from Graham Millard:

With regard to Kevin's picture, the place is, without a doubt, Llandudno. I've walked up that pier many times, not I might add during times when they dressed like that! Why I'm so convinced that it is Llandudno is because the top of the St. George's Hotel is an odd shape and this is visible to the right of the woman's hat. Also, the ironwork on the side of the pier is the same as the picture on page 12 of Paul Braithwaite's book 'Arcades and Slot Machines', featuring the three ladies.

The picture Graham refers to is, of course, the photograph of the three women viewing cast iron mutoscopes on a pier. Although there is no reference to the time or place in the book, I can confirm that the photo' was taken on Llandudno pier in 1936



. Kevin's picture, which we now know is Llandudno pier.

Before I had a chance to read Graham's email though, I received a phone call from Peter Williamson who said the machine in the picture is a merchandiser called *The Wembley Glide*. Peter operates what is believed to be the sole survivor in his penny arcade at Great Yarmouth, and as soon as Peter mentioned the machine, I realised that it is indeed what can be seen in Kevin's picture. When I visited Peter and Shirley a while back, I took a good number of photographs of Peter's machines, but unfortunately I only have one picture of the *Wembley Glide*, taken from the front, whereas Kevin's picture shows a side view of the machine. But trust me – it's the same machine!

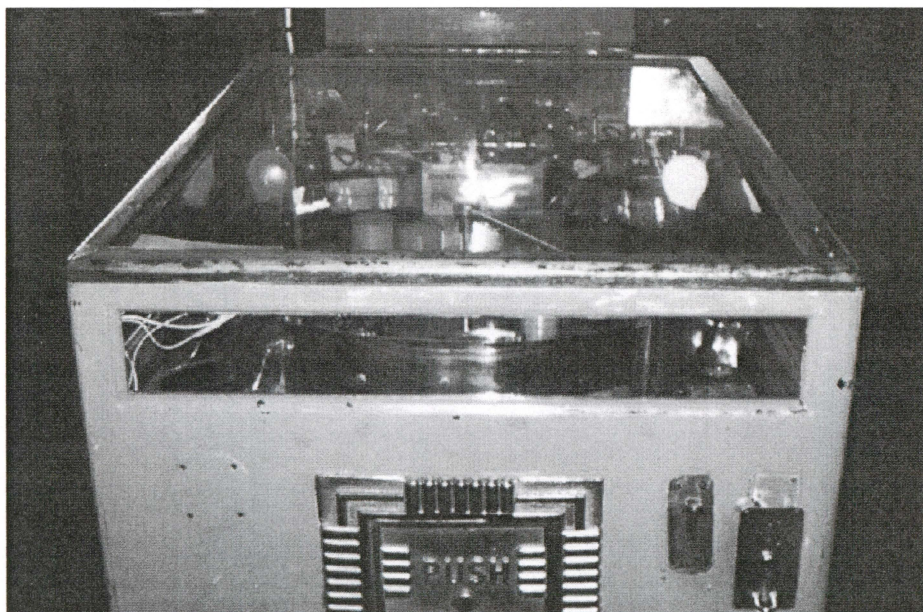
Going back to Graham's email, he finished with this:

Seeing that things don't move very fast in Llandudno, I've just had a thought. Our friend Ray Roberts lives near there so perhaps he could take a walk along the pier and see if whatever it is, is still there!!

All the best

Graham

So, when you read this Ray, perhaps you could take a stroll up the pier and see what you can find. You never know, the three cast iron 'scopes may still be there!



Peter's Wembley Glide at the Model Village, Great Yarmouth.

Photographing Slot Machines

Tips for successful images by Richard Goddard

Part 2

In the previous issue I talked about Composition and how to get the best from the image you are creating, by carefully positioning the camera in order to remove distortions, converging verticals, unwanted reflections and unwanted junk that could detract from the finished picture. So having done all this and the composition is right for you, I will discuss exposing the image.

Exposing the Image

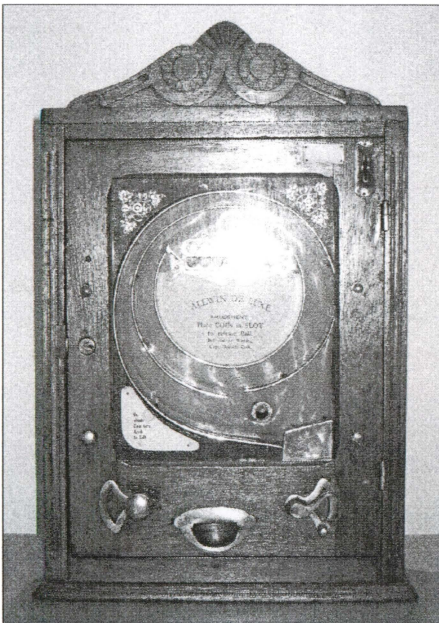
With many modern cameras, exposure is done automatically but it is not always fail-safe and there can be times when the camera will decide upon a certain shutter speed and lens aperture that would not necessarily suit the conditions. However, most cameras will allow the auto mode to be turned off (switched to programme or manual mode for instance) which will then offer a degree of user control and hence choice in exposing the image.

If the available light level is marginal or low, a useful setting to alter on digital cameras is the ISO. The ISO rating is a measure of how sensitive the image sensor (or with non digital cameras, the film) is to light. For everyday normal exposures, ISO 100 or 200 is often more than adequate, however, if the ambient lighting is not good, alter this setting from within your menu screen to 400 or even 800 (in negative or transparency terms this is a fast film), you may need to switch your camera off the automatic mode first. The alteration to a higher ISO setting will allow images to be captured at lower light levels without the use of flash but beware, the higher this setting is, the more grainy the image becomes (in digital terms this is called 'noise'). If you use a film camera and the loaded film is not 'fast' enough then use a tripod: but more about this element in the next issue.

If you are photographing a machine that has glass or is highly reflective, it may be better not to use flash, I have often seen photographs of machines whose glass fronts have reflected the flash so much that it obliterates the detail. When faced with such a situation, ask yourself the following, 1) do I need the image to be face on, 2) is there sufficient lighting not to use flash.

If you do not need the image to be face on, move slightly to one side to create an angle, the flash will then be reflected away from the optical line of the lens and bright reflections should not be bounced back into the lens. If however, the image needs to be face on and flash is required (or cannot be turned off) then take the camera off auto

mode, and tape a piece of white card immediately below the flash, and at about 40° to 50° so that the light emitted is directed up and bounced off the ceiling (see photograph below), this will help to give a softer overall illuminance. It may not completely remove reflections but will greatly reduce the reflected flash from the glass. Trial and error will soon ascertain the size of card used but ensure that it is large enough to hide from the machine the flash emitted, but not too large so that it obscures any sensor on the camera, ensure that you tape up any gaps between the card and camera to prevent unwanted escape of the flash. This can work well if the ceiling is white and not too high but if the ceiling is coloured or quite high it may not be that effective. In this circumstance selotape two, three, or even four layers of white 'Kleenex' tissue in front of the flash window, as this will help to reduce the harshness of light emitted, but reflection is still likely to occur albeit reduced. Again, trial and error will determine the number of layers required.



Left: Photo of machine taken face-on with flash: note reflected light obliterating detail.
Right: Same shot, but with card taped to camera in order to bounce light off the ceiling.

If you are photographing an item in the open, make sure that the sun, even if behind cloud, is not directly in front of you as this will cause under-exposure and the resulting item you are photographing may well turn out to be quite dark resulting in loss of detail within the shadow and in some cases the item could turn out to be a silhouette against the brighter background. If the bright background is unavoidable ask someone to hold up



Camera with card taped under flash, all I used was a chocolate box lid.

their hand or a piece of card/newspaper about 2 feet (600mm) in front of the camera so that a shadow is cast over the lens, but make sure you do not have their hand or shading object in the shot! Alternatively if there is some shade, stand in it and take the photograph, I have often done this, even in the shade of a few tree leaves and zoomed in on the item.

A similar problem can arise when photographing an object indoors that is in front of, or near a window. Whilst it may look perfectly acceptable through your eye, which is a wonderfully adaptive piece of kit, it will not in the photograph as the camera may well expose for the brighter light coming in through the window and again result in a dark image. This may be overcome by going to manual or programme mode and switching on the flash to illuminate the machine but be careful about reflections described above. As I mentioned in Part 1, try to fill the frame with your machine, as this will also help the camera to determine a more accurate exposure.

If you have a digital camera (or loads of film) don't be afraid to take lots of shots from differing views, and even the same repeat shots at different camera settings, it is surprising how the results can differ.

Next issue I will talk about Crispness of the Image, in the mean time....Happy snapping.

Richard Goddard

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For Sale

Pinball Player/Penny Slot Supplement
1983-1992, qty. 105.

Antique Amusements Magazine
Sept 94 - Oct 2001, quantity 72.

Deal Directory 1994 quantity 12
(all have some missing).

Service Manual Wurlitzer Lyric 1962-69.

Bell Fruit service manuals and circuit
diagrams for various 1970s
electro-mechanical models.

Sega parts catalogue, various models.

Bally Gold Award series parts catalogue
and service instructions.

Any offers? Come on don't let the paper
bank get them! Will go to charity anyway,
postage at cost.

Contact: lewis.morrison@btinternet.com

Wanted

Bagatelles, unusual or with nice graphics.
Also old pre 1930s games, I.E. indoor,
pub, board games etc.

Ivan 01273 401144

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Call Gazza 07887 926601 (Essex)

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BAC twin column Players and Capstan
cigarette vending machine on 6d and 1/-
with letters 'cigarettes' embossed on sides.
Wall mounted, working and in excellent
condition. With keys.

BAC Nestles chocolate single column
vending machine on 6d, visual glass to
front. Wall mounted, in very good
condition. With keys.

GPO post mounted letter box, loaf top
style GR VI. With keys.

Coin-operated A + B coin box c. 1940. Ex
phone box, converted to 1p, 2p, 5p c. 1970
With keys.

Please phone for more details
Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

For Sale

'Joey the Clown' 1950s jolly family game,
with illustration of a clown on box lid.
Complete and in good condition. £7.50

John 01273 608620 (Brighton)

Wanted

Set of four cast feet of the type/style of a
BANCo Pussy Shooter.

Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

Wanted

Bollands working model wanted. Will part
exchange for Ahrens Fireman Racer, plus
cash adjustment. Phone for details.

Les 07905 372227 evenings

Wanted

Ruffler and Walker two player games:
Grand National and Grand Prix.

Charlie 07711 978806 (Essex)

Wanted

Interesting wall machines: mechanical and electro-mechanical skill games, allwins, love testers etc., working or not. Must be really really cheap.

Jerry 07710 285360 (Kent)

For Sale

Pinball, by Roger C. Sharp, softback book printed in 1977. In fine condition. £30
Fairground Art, softback book by Geoff Weedon and Richard Ward, printed in 2003. In very good condition. £18

David 01223 312057 (Cambridge)

For Sale

Selection of old enamel advertising signs, some motoring. 30 plus.

Wall mounted 'Public Telephone' enamel sign, with original ornate wrought iron bracket. Please phone for more details.

Pete 01507 462070 (Lincs.)

For Sale

Upright Space Invaders machine, by Bally. Phone for more details.

Tabletop Taito Space Invaders, in need of some work. £180

Tabletop Galaxian, in GWO. £275

George 01530 264772 (Leics.)

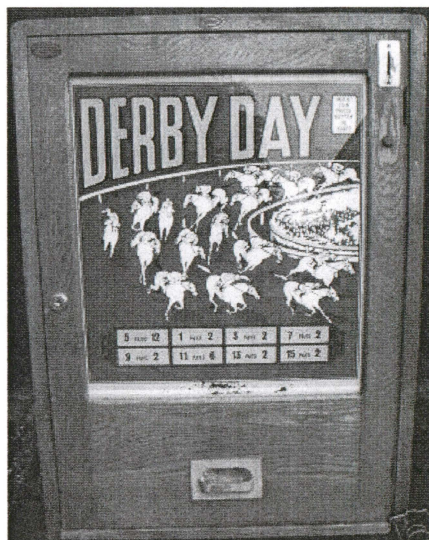
Don't forget

Lineage ads. Are free to subscribers.

Post to the address on page 2
or email to:

Jerry.mmm@tiscali.co.uk

Wanted



Ruffler & Walker

Derby Day

1960s
electro-mechanical wall
machine

Must be complete
and in good working order

Rob. 01507 473639

Email:
robert_rowland2001@yahoo.co.uk

SPARES AND COINS

For Sale

New old stock, Bryans square Yale locks, with two keys. £10 each, plus £2 p&p

Tony 07974 460742 (Essex)
or email vanessa.raye@tesco.net

For Sale

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For Sale

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Charlie 07711 978806 (Essex)

For Sale

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Some original award cards – enquire.
Mills 5c and 25c original sets of payout slides. £30 per set

Peter 01304 822485 (Kent)

The Mutoscope Man

Large range of mutoscope parts available.
Part or total restorations undertaken.

John Hayward
01273 608620 (Brighton)

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Radial pin cam locks. 30mm barrel length, 19mm (3/4") diameter. High quality, high security. Supplied with two keys. Ideal for Bandits, Jukeboxes, Pinballs etc.

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10 Bedford Road, Dartford DA1 1SR

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www.gazzaspinballs.co.uk

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Original Clown Tokens
Brass or Silver
£25 per 100, inc. p&p

Tony 01622 820263

Fortune Teller Cards

Criss-cross cards

typed or hand written, various types.

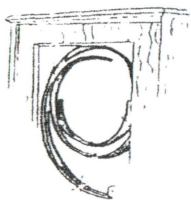
Small Argyll type

for drawer puller wall machines. Future husband, Career, baby etc. Love letter, palmistry, fortune – full range.

Green ray cards

hand written in green ink.
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ALLWIN TRACK

Grooved & chromed just like the original.

Inner with flat & nipple

17½" inside length

Middle 18" inside length

Outer 40" inside length

ALLWIN SPARES

From Stock

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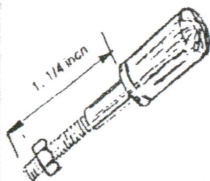
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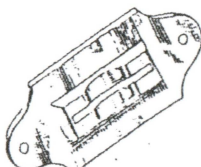
Win Tabs Red printer
on Silver foil sticky
backed 12 on a sheet



CHROMED 7 ball win
gallery. 6 x 1. 9/16



CHROMED THUMB
STOP



COIN SLOT
to suit 2p but can
be filed bigger

PRICE LIST

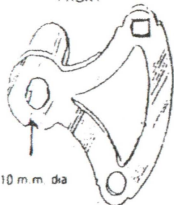
N01 Win Tabs (12 per
sheet) £15.25

N02 Ball Gallery £12.55

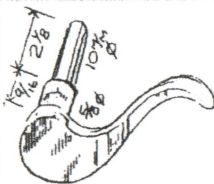
N03 Thumb Stop £6.25

N04 Coin Slot (2p)
£9.25

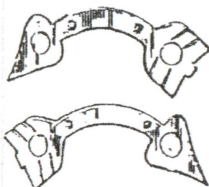
CHROMED TRIGGER
FRONT



10 m.m. dia



TRIGGER



CHROMED ARROWS
Reversible.

N05 Trigger Front £9.25

N06 Trigger £12.25

N07 Payout Arrow
£2.55

N08 Payout Bowl &
Surround £15.55

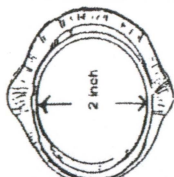
N09 Payout Knob
Shield £9.95

CHROMED PAYOUT BOWL

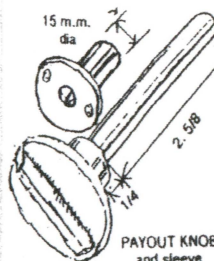


2.5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing
squares at 3.75 inch centres.

CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on
extended nipples 2. 1/2 centres.



PAYOUT KNOB
and sleeve

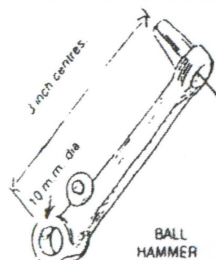
N10 Payout Knob &
Sleeve £11.95

N11 Ball Hammer £4.95

N12 Ball Cups
1-5 £9.99each
6-10 £7.99each
11+ £5.99each

N13 Spandrells £14.99

N14 Allwin Track
inner £19.00
middle £19.00
outer £23.50
set of 3 £47.00

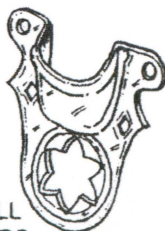


BALL
HAMMER

SPANDRELLS



BALL
CUPS



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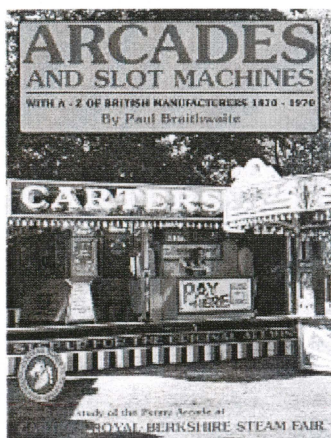
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Amusements Machines By Lynn F. Pearson

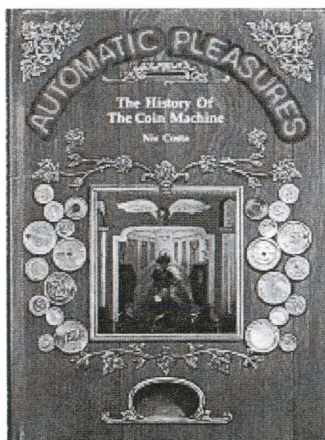
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Focuses on some of the earliest and rarest machines. The first book ever published on coin-operated machines from a British social history perspective. Out of print for many years.

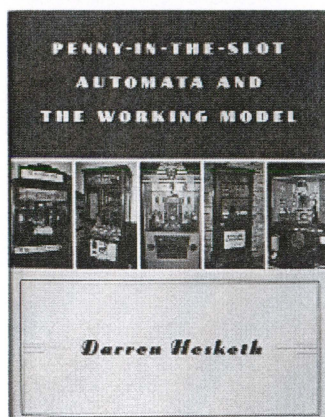
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By Nick Laister

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